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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INTELLOFAX 29

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY : Germany (Soviet Zone)

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SUBJECT : High Standard Polyvinyl Chloride
Produced at I G Farbenindustrie

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Available information indicates that polyvinyl chloride pro-
duced on the former I. G. Farben premises in the Leipzig -
Dresden area, which is the same place where Buna-N type
synthetic rubber is also being produced, is now estimated in
excess of 250 tons per month; is equal to that produced in the
U. S. and excels that of any other European or U.K. country

European markets. All production is offered to Western

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from there it is reoffered to ultimate consumers
or jobbers under the brand name of "Igelith".

It has also been indicated that the production of Soviet
chemicals meets the high quality standards and specifications
set by the former I. G. Chemical Combine, and that many Soviet
chemicals are now offered to Latin American and Far Eastern
Markets

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- A. (a) Vinyl chloride is a reaction product of one molecule acetylene and one molecule hydrochloric acid. Polymerization is effected either in acetone or methylene chloride solutions, or in emulsion, at a temperature between 100° - 200° C, over a catalyst, the composition of which is not known to me. Polymerization of emulsions of vinyl chloride is the more common process.

Two types of polyvinyl chloride, the production of which apparently has been discontinued, were the Schkopau products, N (low viscosity) and MP. These were mixed polymers of polyvinyl chloride and polyvinyl acetate--produced in liquid form. The trade name of these mixed polymers was "Vinoflex".

"Igelith" or "Igelite" bears the serial name "S 3" or "S 8", the numbers indicating the number of molecules contained in a unit of the polymerized product. "Igelith" is generally produced in powder form, or pressed into tablets.

- (b) The above referenced polyvinyl chloride plant in the Leipzig-Dresden area, is the former I. G. synthetic rubber plant at Schkopau. Schkopau is situated 7 km west of Merseburg, and about 14 km west of the Leuna Plant. The most important production at Schkopau is still the production of synthetic rubber, Buna and Perbunan. The equipment for the production of synthetic rubber and the near-by Thuringian salt mine make Schkopau a logical place for the production of polyvinyl chloride.

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Another plant in the Soviet Zone at which polyvinyl chloride is produced is the former I G chemical plant at Bitterfeld. The polyvinyl chloride production at the Schkopau plant is much greater than that at Bitterfeld. all of the polyvinyl chloride manufactured at Bitterfeld is shipped to the lacquer factory at Wolfen.)

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- (c) Igelith is not as satisfactory as Vinoflex for the production of lacquer and paint films. Furthermore, pipes made of Igelith have serious deficiencies. At normal temperatures, Igelith is brittle and has a tendency to shrink and break. At higher temperatures, about 80° C, the material becomes soft. At temperatures of 160° - 180° C, Igelith melts; at these temperatures, however, it can be used for welding plastics.

Igelith mixed with a plasticizer has found wide application in the Soviet Zone in the production of shoe soles and heels. The most commonly used plasticizer in shoe sole production is Mesamoll, made from an oil collected from the first fraction in the distillation of oil from the hydrogenation of soft coal. Another plasticizer that has been used in the production of shoe heels is trichresyl phosphate.

Igelite has been used as a film on metal for protection against corrosion, but not effective for that purpose because it is porous. In order to use it as such a protective covering mixed

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it with linseed oil in the following manner:

base coat: Three parts of linseed oil with one part of polyvinyl chloride

first cover coat: Two parts of linseed oil with one part of polyvinyl chloride

outside film: One part of linseed oil with one part of polyvinyl chloride

it was possible to substitute an Alkydal for the linseed oil in all these coatings.)

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information regarding the shipment of Soviet goods to western countries concerns shipments of asbestos. 6000 tons of first quality asbestos are shipped annually, while the Soviet Zone of Germany is allotted only 500 tons of third, fourth or fifth quality asbestos annually.

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